

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Children will leave for Sunday School following the announcements. They will be returning for the Children's Story and Communion.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Bolded together)

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.

Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (All Together)

Creator God, give us a sense of your presence as we gather now for worship. Grant us gratitude as we remember your goodness, penitence as we remember your love. Enable us to lift up our hearts in humble prayer and fervent praise, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #299 Holy, Holy, Holy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All Together): Holy and merciful God, for the times we have followed the path of the wicked, stood in solidarity with those who were wrong, or sat quietly and allowed sin to happen, forgive us. Help us to meditate, even delight, in your Word, so that we will flourish with the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's Word of grace: We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved. This gift we have from God. Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Take a moment and greet each other.

HYMN #497 Word of God, Across the Ages

CHOIR ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Luke 7:36-50

SERMON "Our Need for Help"

HYMN #560 Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

OFFERING The offering can be placed on the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service at the sound table, or at the front after the service.

DOXOLOGY #79 Offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With Moses and Elijah and all the people of God, with the church throughout the ages bearing witness to the great light of God shining in dark places, we commend to you all for whom we pray, O merciful God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S STORY

SPECIAL MUSIC - Nathan Schleicher

COMMUNION (See Insert)

HYMN #592 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Join us for fellowship and refreshments after the service.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

For the congregation and community.

We invite you to bring a friend or neighbour!

5:00pm-6:30pm Banquet Hall

Congregational Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Immediately following the worship service.

OFFICE HOURS for Pastor Kelli

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00am-2:00pm

Please call to let her know you would like to drop by.

For Pastoral Care – please email

pastorkelli.knoxstratford@gmail.com

or leave a message at the office

519-271-0373 Press 3 to reach her office phone.

Minister: Pastor Kelli Berkner

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan

Treasurer: Shannon Archer

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KNOX CHURCH STRATFORD



March 2, 2025

COMMUNION (Bolded together):

Pastor: He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy, where he pled the cause of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, he is the host.

Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. Those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image, setting us in this world to love and to serve you, and to live in peace with your whole creation. When we rebelled against you, you did not reject us, but still claimed us as your own. You sent prophets to call us back to your way. Then in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent your only Son to be one of us, to redeem us and heal our brokenness. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God, for in your great mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. He took our human nature, and suffered death on the cross for our redemption. There he made a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

We praise you that before he suffered and died, our Saviour gave us this holy sacrament and commanded us to continue it as a lasting memorial of his death and sacrifice until he comes again.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

According to his commandment:

**We remember his death, we proclaim his
resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Send us out in the power of the Spirit to live for others, as Christ lived for us, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all peoples and nations. By your Spirit draw us together into one body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain his glad and faithful people until we feast with him in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, and together we proclaim the prayer Christ taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We come not because we ought, but because we may, not because we are righteous, but because we are penitent, not because we are strong, but because we are weak, not because we are whole, but because we are broken. Come and receive the gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION is served.

Please come forward to receive the bread and grape juice.

(Bread is gluten free)

A server can also come to your seat to serve communion.